IN THE HIGH COURT OF GUJARAT AT AHMEDABAD

SPECIAL CIVIL APPLICATION No 7795 of 2003

For Approval and Signature:

Hon'ble MR.JUSTICE R.P.DHOLAKIA

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1. Whether Reporters of Local Papers may be allowed to see the judgements? : NO

2. To be referred to the Reporter or not? : NO

3. Whether Their Lordships wish to see the fair copy of the judgement? : NO

4. Whether this case involves a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution of India, 1950 of any Order made thereunder? : NO

5. Whether it is to be circulated to the concerned Magistrate/Magistrates,Judge/Judges,Tribunal/Tribunals? : NO

NAILESHBHAI NARANBHAI PATEL

Versus

DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF ANAND

Appearance:

1. Special Civil Application No. 7795 of 2003

MS DR KACHHAVAH for Petitioner No. 1

MR AD OZA GP for Respondent No. 1-3

CORAM : MR.JUSTICE R.P.DHOLAKIA

Date of decision: 21/07/2003

ORAL JUDGEMENT

The present petition has been filed by the petitioner - detenu who has been detained under the provisions of Gujarat Prevention of Anti-Social

Activities Act, 1985 (hereinafter referred to as `the Act of 1985') by the order dated 1/11/2002 passed by the District Magistrate, Anand and he has been declared as "Drug Offender".

2. I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner at length and learned GP, Mr.Oza for the respondents. I have also perused the material on record. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the solitary offence registered against the petitioner on 23/7/2002 before the Anand Rural Police Station vide CR No.3056 of 2002 under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 relying upon which, the detaining authority has passed the impugned detention order on 1/11/2002 and hence, according to the learned counsel for the petitioner detenu, there is a delay of more than three months in passing the order. Learned AGP has fairly admitted the same. In support of the arguments, learned counsel for the petitioner detenu has relied upon a judgment delivered by this Court reported in 1997(1) G.L.H. page 381 in the case of Elesh Nandubhai Patel Vs. Commissioner of Police, Ahmedabad City and Ors. more particularly at para 21 which reads as under:

> "There appears to be some substance in the contention of the petitioner that these two unregistered cases have been referred only with a view to cover up the gap or to give life to a stale case. This unexplained delay makes a ground of detention not proximate, vitiating the order of detention itself. If I am to buttress my findings, I would say the reference may be made to the decision of the Supreme Court in Anand Prakash V. State of U.P. reported in AIR 1990 SC 516 and Pradeep Nilkanth Vs. S. Ramamurthy reported in 1993(2) Suppl. SCC 61."

3. It appears that last offence has been registered against the petitioner on 23/7/2002 and order of detention has been passed on 1/11/1002 and hence, there is a delay of more than three months in passing the order. No affidavit has been filed by the respondents explaining the delay satisfactorily, caused in passing the order of detention. Therefore, in view of the above judgment relied upon by the learned counsel for the petitioner, the order of detention is illegal and the same cannot be sustained. Learned counsel for the petitioner does not press any other points.

4. In view of the above, the petition is allowed.

The impugned order of detention dated 1/11/2002 passed against the detenu is hereby quashed and set aside. The detenu namely Naileshbhai Naranbhai Patel is ordered to be set at liberty forthwith, if not required in any other case. Rule is made absolute accordingly with no order as to costs. D.S. Permitted.

(R.P.DHOLAKIA,J.)

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